

Maryland Shaft No. 2
1 mile S of Wilmore, E of PA 160
Wilmore Vicinity
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-182

HAER
PA
11-WILM.V,
1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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MARYLAND SHAFT NO. 2

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Location: 1 mile South of Wilmore, East of PA 160, Wilmore Vic., Cambria County, Pennsylvania

USGS Quad: Beaverdale, Pennsylvania (1:24000)
UTM: 17 E.693750 N.4471580

Date of Construction: 1945-61

Builder: The Wilmore Coal Company, a subdivision of Berwind-White Coal Company

Present Owner: Bethlehem Steel Company

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: Established specifically to produce coal during World War II, it was the deepest bituminous coal shaft in Pennsylvania, extending nearly 850' below the surface.

Project Information: In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Blair and Cambria counties as the first step in identifying the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.

The results of this project have been published in Blair County and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (1990), edited by Gray Fitzsimons and produced by HABS/HAER for the National Park Service.

See HAER No. PA-184, Berwind-White Coal Mining Company, Richland Vicinity, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, for specific information on the company.

Compiler: Thomas Lindblom and Margaret Mulrooney, Historians
Gray Fitzsimons and Kenneth Rose, Editors

History:

In 1945 the Wilmore Coal Company, a subdivision of Berwind-White, opened the Maryland Shaft No. 2 near the town of Wilmore. Established specifically to produce coal during World War II, it was the deepest bituminous coal shaft in Pennsylvania, extending nearly 850' below the surface. Interestingly, the nearby Maryland Shaft No. 1 at St. Michael was the deepest bituminous coal shaft in Pennsylvania prior to the opening of Shaft No. 2 (see entry of Maryland Coal Company of Pennsylvania: Maryland Shaft No. 1). In addition to the mine, the colliery contained a tippie, a carpenter and blacksmith shop, a change house, and a power plant, all of brick and steel construction. The colliery was served by a spur of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Berwind-White operated the Maryland Shaft No. 2 until 1961 when the Bethlehem Mines Corporation, a subsidiary of Bethlehem Steel, leased the property. The mine was closed permanently in the 1970s and the shaft was sealed.

Until April 1988 this 1940s colliery featured a steel headframe, the only one of its kind in Cambria County. Demolished by its owners, the Berwind Corporation, the headframe was originally fabricated by the Connellsville Manufacturing & Mine Supply Company of Connellsville, Pennsylvania. Although the headframe and tippie, as well as the tall brick stack of the power plant, have been razed, the carpenter shop, blacksmith and machine shop, change house, and power plant still stand. The interiors, however, are believed to be largely gutted. The exteriors of these red-brick buildings are lightly ornamented with corbeled brick pilasters. The windows and doors, which have concrete lintels, have been covered with sheet metal.

Sources:

- Alcamo, Frank Paul. The Windber Story: A Model Twentieth Century Coal Mining Town. Windber, Pennsylvania: Frank Paul Alcamo, 1983.
- "Hoist-Rope Change Time Cut by Power-Driven Reel Shaft," Coal Age, 56 (May 1951), 116.
- "Maryland Shaft No. 2," Coal Age, 48 (July 1943), 124.
- Sargent, A Tappen. "Enduring Coal Enterprise," Black Diamond, 97 (28 March 1936), 8.
- "Shaft Safety Increased by Three Shop-Made Cage Attachments," Coal Age, 56 (April 1951), 108.